

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

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LESSON FOR SEPTEMBER 13

THE TEN VIRGINS.

LESSON TEXT—Matt. 25:1-13.
GOLDEN TEXT—"Watch therefore for ye know neither the day nor the hour when the Son of Man cometh." Matt. 24:42.

A parable is "an earthly story with a heavenly meaning." An analogy is "a likeness." This story is a parable. It is to illustrate the vigilant, expectant attitude of faith, Heb. 6:28; II Tim. 4:8. Leaving the temple, Jesus drew the disciples' attention to its buildings and predicted its destruction. Proceeding to the Mount of Olives, his disciples ask him, "Tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign of thy coming, and the end of the world?" In reply Jesus gave the disciples his Olivet discourse and prophecies found in chapters 24 and 25. To fully comprehend this parable we ought to review all of this teaching. The discourse as a whole falls into three parts: (1) 24:1-44 deals with Israel as a nation; (2) 24:45-25:30 deals with the church as being responsible for the king during the period between his two advents; and (3) 25:31-46 deals with the judgment of the nations when the Son of Man comes in his glory. It will be seen then that this lesson comes in the second part and is one of the parables concerning the responsibility of the church. Jesus is the bridegroom, John 3:28, 29; Eph. 5:25; II Cor. 11:2; Rev. 21:9, and sets forth the love of Christ for the church, Eph. 5:25, 28, 30-32.

Two Classes.

I. "While the bridegroom tarried" vv. 1-5. The first and strongest idea of this section is that he, Jesus, the bridegroom, is coming again. Among those who wait are two classes, the wise and the foolish, though both were right intentioned. The lamps symbolize Christian profession, Luke 12:37; II Tim. 3:5, and the oil that which is essential to give us power whereby we maintain our profession, Acts 10:38; I John 2:20-27. The foolish virgins were superficial and had not enough to maintain their professions. The wise virgins had enough oil; so also may the believer have the abiding spirit of Christ's presence wherein to maintain his Christian profession. Waiting they all nodded (slumbered) and others evidently lay down (slept). The wise virgins could afford to rest as they had all things ready. If they had been awake, however, they might have seen and rendered aid to those who were in the sorry plight of not being ready. The tarrying was a test of the faith and patience of both the wise and the foolish as both awaited the "fulness of time" when he should appear.

The Great Question.

II. Behold the bridegroom cometh" vv. 6-12. All are awakened by this midnight cry. The hour was one when he was least expected, and the church of today needs to be awakened to a realizing sense of this truth. Both the wise and the foolish have to meet him, but the wise were the only ones whose lights could shine and show the way into the banqueting room. They all outwardly appear alike even to the very point of separation. The church of God individually and collectively, has yet to sense the danger to it and to others if its light for any reason be not continuous. This cry was a call to "meet him" and we all need to ask ourselves, "are we ready to meet him?" The hour was too late to make needful preparation to meet him. In their emergency they turned to the five wise ones and the wisdom of one cannot supply the deficiency or the foolishness of others (v. 9). There is no Scripture to support the teaching that one man's merit is applicable to another except the merit of the God-man Jesus as applied to sinful humanity. Hence the wise sent their sisters to the original source of supply for oil, and as they went "the bridegroom came." So will it be with all who put off too long the securing of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

"They that were ready" went in, that they were not ready when they came found the door "shut." To attend a marriage feast is highly esteemed everywhere, but it is a privilege that is worthy of careful preparation. Remember that Jesus is here showing the attitude towards himself of those who profess to be devoted to him during the period of his absence and who expect his return as king. That being so, we need to remind ourselves of the laws of the kingdom as he gave them at the beginning of his public career. In them we hear his saying, "Ye are the light of the world. . . . Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel but on a candlestick. . . . Let your light so shine before men that they . . . may glorify your Father which is in heaven," Matt. 5:14-16. If we apply these words to this particular parable there is revealed to us the fact that true and real waiting for Christ is that which witnesses to men, and it was in this that the foolish virgins failed. At the outset their lights were shining but they failed to be in that close contact, in the exercise of those habits and practices of spiritual fellowship with their Lord which would insure the continuous shining of their light. This broken fellowship explains what he means by his words at his coming, "Verily I say unto you, I know you not." They had broken connection with him, the source of needful supply. There must be the careful maintenance of the relations of closest friendship with him if we are to have that supply of the Spirit as shall enable us to keep the light shining clearly and effectually.

AFRO-AMERICAN CULLINGS

Charles S. Osborne of Boston, a colored porter employed by the Oakland Motor Car company, has just finished a portrait of Cardinal O'Connell, which in many ways proves the ability of the artist. The picture and the wood carving in the frame that encloses it, and the pedestal on which it stands, required eight weeks to finish.

The accomplishment is the more striking in that Mr. Osborne can devote only part of his spare time, about two hours a day when there is daylight, to the practicing of his favorite recreation and prospective life work.

When his duties as porter are over at five o'clock in the afternoon he hastens to his little room, which is a studio as well, and while the light is good paints or does charcoal drawing. The Cardinal's portrait, which is done in oil, was painted from a recent photograph by a well known Boston photographer, and is 20 by 27 inches. The carved and painted frame is about four feet high and is an excellent representation of the old Florentine art, as is the hand carved pedestal on which it rests. In the center of the woodwork above the picture is a miniature reproduction of the carved replica of Florentine cathedral windows is an angel, one holding a harp and the other a bugle. On the base of the frame is carved a wreath of red roses, harmonizing with the Cardinal's cape. The work of Mr. Osborne is a triumph over difficulties, for practically all of the carving was done with a jackknife.

Mr. Osborne was born in Savannah, Ga., in 1870, and spent the first 20 years of his life in the South. He worked with carpenters and learned panelling and moulding, but all the while he fostered a strong desire to become a painter. He used to draw in the sand with pointed sticks and occasionally procured a little crayon. Feeling that there was larger opportunity in the North, he came to Boston in 1891, and while working as a porter went to the evening school of the Boston Art club. There he received instruction in charcoal drawing from Ernest Major.

Later he studied water colors under Miss Agnes Leavitt, an artist in Copley square. For several years after that he kept up his artistic endeavors alone, money not being very plentiful. He disposed of quite a number of paintings in this period, and with the proceeds he was able to go to the drawing school of Eric Pape in 1911, studying there three years. Much of his spare time has been spent in visiting art exhibitions and in the art department of the Boston city library.

Mr. Osborne has sold a number of outdoor sketches and portraits done from life. He considers his best work to be the "Oriental Dancing Girl," from life, a picture which took him six months to complete and which is now on exhibition at the Boston City club. After a rest of two weeks he intends to begin a work called "Star of Bethlehem," which he hopes to have on exhibition by Christmas.

Adulterated olive oil is hard to detect, even by the expert tasters. They allege, however, that they can tell the spurious article by flavor and effect on the throat.

The first smoking car was put into operation on the Eastern Counties railway in England in 1846.

The grand lodge of colored Masons of Indiana met in New Albany. Richmond was chosen for the 1915 meeting. Officers elected were: Grand master, D. W. Caine, Seymour; deputy grand master, C. E. Dunlap, Indianapolis; senior warden, Marcus Herring, Crawfordsville; junior warden, Harry Edmonds, Mitchell; secretary, Fred D. Blake, Terre Haute; treasurer, R. F. Taylor, Jeffersonville; lecturer, J. H. Williams, Washington; marshal, James Ferguson, Richmond; senior deacon, Silas Mills, Fort Wayne; junior deacon, R. W. Manuel, Princeton, stewards, G. S. Peoples, Rockville, Frank James, Evansville; chaplain, W. H. Anderson, Evansville; clerk, E. P. Stewart, Vincennes; trustees, E. O. Price, Connersville; Joseph Jackson, Terre Haute; Theodore Crawford, Indianapolis.

On June 30 last the state of West-ern Australia owned 3,150 miles of railway and more than 600 miles were in course of construction.

Every man has an excuse for wanting the earth, but his excuse is never satisfactory to his neighbors.

Dairen, China, has 21 public primary schools with nearly 6,000 pupils, and 289 private schools with 7,000 pupils.

The highest inland building is the new Chamber of Commerce at St. Louis, Mo. The height above the street level is 425 feet.

Mines and quarries in Bavaria, Germany, employ 15,000 men.

There is a lighthouse every 14 miles along the English coast.

Using Peat in Germany. Peat coke in Germany is proving serviceable in many ways. It is not only valuable for generating electricity at moorland stations, but is much used by blacksmiths and for various metallurgical purposes, especially as a substitute for charcoal in producing high-grade iron. A new turt-cooking plant at Elizabeth-Pohn, Oldenburg, converts 30 tons of peat into nine tons of coke, with gas and tar as by-products. Specially-designed ovens are used and the gas generated

When the authorities of the Calhoun school decided to add a story to the Armstrong-Slater Memorial Trade school, the student tradesmen attacked with enthusiasm the laborious task of raising the heavy roof and putting on the second story. Then came the tedious days devoted to finishing the interior work. There was always the joy of doing successfully tasks generally considered beyond the reach of tradesmen in the training.

Again the call came to do some building which would require skill, patience, and endurance. It was the erection of a two-story brick building to be used as a social center for the boys. Contracts were awarded to the Trade Schools departments and student tradesmen did the construction work. Today the building stands completed. It is known as Clarke hall. It is used by the Young Men's Christian association. To appreciate the meaning of these three examples of construction work done by the Hampton tradesmen, one must see the completed structures and realize the building problems which the young negro and Indian tradesmen met and successfully solved.

While construction work calls for ability to read working drawings and follow detailed specifications, the demands made by repair problems are in many instances even more taxing. To make a repair quickly, skillfully, and economically, requires unusual ability. Hampton institute is indeed an industrial village in which there is constant demand for men who can do good repair and construction work.

Hampton aims to fit young men and women to do well and in an uncommon way the common tasks of life. Students are taught to handle their tasks like skilled workmen. They learn for their work an excellent equipment and they are expected and required to take the best possible care of the school's property. They receive financial credit for their work and they are required to keep a strict account of all that they earn and spend during the years of their training at Hampton.

Clerks in the stores and shops of all kinds in Mexico smoke while waiting on customers.

The work for girls at Hampton leads to the important occupations of home-making and teaching. When a girl enters Hampton institute she has the opportunity of receiving thorough training in domestic science. The girls work daily for 12 months in the laundry and in the boarding department under the supervision of experienced teachers, and carry on their academic studies in the evening the same as the boys who are in the work class. The mental and moral training, which the year of combined work and study gives, makes it one of the most valuable years of the course. The working day for the girls is shorter than for the boys, but a girl may earn from \$15 to \$18 a month. This enables her to be entirely self-supporting during her first year in school, and to accumulate a balance toward defraying the expenses of the second year. A girl in the work class needs very little money besides her entrance fee and first month's board. This course is advised for all new girls regardless of their ability to pay their way in the day school.

Belgian state railways buy cloth from England for uniforms of employees.

Within an area only eight per cent. larger than Rhode Island the English county of Lancashire supplies the world with 70 per cent of its cotton manufactures.

A gas buoy broke away from its moorings in the St. Lawrence and drifted two years, covering a distance of 18,000 miles.

Pennsylvania has one automobile for each 150 inhabitants, which is quite a good deal more than the average for the whole country.

The maximum depth of the Pacific ocean is near the island of Mindanao, while in the Atlantic a spot off the coast of Porto Rico holds the record.

The indications are that the Chinese will lead the world with their aeroplane fleet in the course of a very few years.

Electrical workers in Sheffield, England, are paid 17 cents an hour.

Birmingham, England, is doubling its water supply at a cost of \$3,400,000.

Russian railroads protect ties and telegraph poles against decay by soaking them for several months before use in strong brine.

Insomnia is one thing and a nightmare is another. Eat lobster and take your choice.

When a man mixes religion with politics the religion is apt to lose its identity.

Wild animals work great havoc in India's wheat fields.

It is made to heat the retorts and to generate electric current to drive the peat dredging machines. The tar yields cresote oil, gas oil, paraffin, sulphuric acid and ammonia.

Of No Use to Him.

Coal Dealer—Why don't you wheel the barrow along more quickly, Pat? It's not a very hard job; there's an inclined plane to relieve you.

Pat—Ay, master, the plane may be inclined, but hang me if I ain't Pearson's Weekly.

Fall Styles for Little Girls



RATHER as a suggestion than as a copy to be exactly followed, these two dresses designed for little girls are shown here. American adaptations of French clothes for children usually show greater length of skirt and somewhat more fullness than the original designs. The little dress designed for the tiny girl is so plain in the body as to be boyish, but the fancy decoration in smocked silk on sleeves and collar, and the puffing of the sleeves, places it as a girl's dress.

The material used is a checked velvet. The little garment is cut with a long shoulder and made over a muslin body. The back is plain, but the front is cut wide enough to be gathered into scant fullness along the shoulder seams and about the neck. The shoulders extend over the sleeves, which are set into the body. There is a narrow collar extending from shoulder to shoulder. This is made on a plain silk foundation covered with smocking of the same silk and finished with narrow soutache braid about the edge and along the center. A decoration of the same sort is placed across the puffed sleeve and finishes it at the bottom. Two short straps of the material of the dress

simulate the belt near the bottom of the skirt, to which they are fastened with silk buttons.

For practical use the sleeve should be made longer, and a little additional length of skirt will improve the design.

A plain dress in a smooth-face cloth is shown, with a little cape to be worn with it. The cape is in reality one of those odd new garments which are part cape and part coat and are best described as a cape into which sleeves are introduced. There are numbers of these new developments in outer garments, which suggest a cape and are the results of its inspiration. It is only possible to make them by securing a pattern.

This garment, like all others of the same character, is lined with a plain soft silk. Its only decoration appears about the cuffs and in the three fancy buttons with simulated buttonholes at the neck.

A touch of vivid color enlivens this plain dress. It is introduced in a scarf of Roman stripe ribbon at the neck. The usual collar of dainty organdie, which is so often the part of misses' dresses, finishes this one.

Dancing Cap of Flitter Silver



SINCE the introduction of dancing caps, which make their debut along with the strenuous tango, ribbons and laces, necks and gausies, have been fashioned in unending variety into caps for the dancing girl. And now that we have gold and silver tresses, silver spangled nets, and gauzes striped with tinsel, designers have been quick to seize upon these new fabrics and to make alluring head decorations of them.

These little caps are also to be worn to the theater and called "opera caps" as well as "dancing caps." They are worn with fancy neckpieces of ostrich feathers like those illustrated here are wonderfully effective and brilliant.

For decorating evening caps of this kind tassels of silver or gold filigree, or little balls, are used. To add a little touch of color small flowers of silk or satin ribbon are most often employed. But the matter of decoration gives much scope to the individual fancy.

Since the materials of which the caps are made are so brilliant one should be careful to use very little in the way of trimmings on them.

The popularity of caps of this kind is assured. They are more brilliant than any coiffure. They do not have to be removed at the theater, and at the dance they keep the hair in place. But above all they are amazingly becoming, as full of dash and brilliance as a diamond.

Ostrich neckpieces are not very long and are made up in white and all the light colors, and in the natural colors. The latter are more generally useful than others because they are suitable for afternoon wear as well as for evening.

Julia Bottomley.

Berlin doctors have named a new disease "tango foot" and attributed it to that dance.

Tunics of net are a characteristic feature of many of the smartest gowns. Frequently they are used in combination with an edging of fur, beads or roses.

Not Pretzels.

Man (in bakeshop)—My wife told me to get something else—what was it? Baker—You have biscuits and a pie—maybe it was some crullers.

Man—Not I; I distinctly remember her telling me not to get things twisted.

LIBAU, IMPORTANT RUSSIAN NAVAL BASE

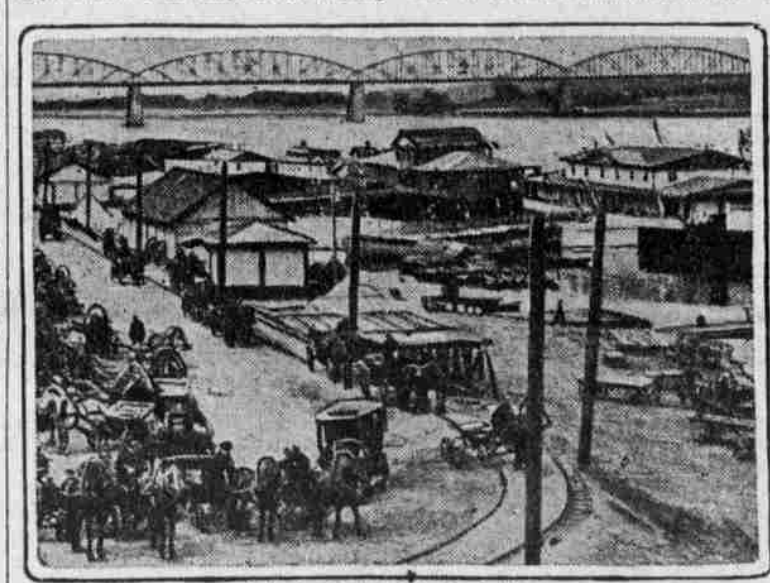
IF a bombardment of Libau by a German warship should prove effective, then Russia would certainly be wounded in one of her most important naval strategic positions, remarks a writer in the New York Sun. To Russia Libau is a port of very great concern and one that normally in time of war should be of prime importance to her, especially in the winter time.

St. Petersburg is substantially ice bound for months each year. This is the reason for Libau's military significance. This Baltic city lies far enough south of the capital to be substantially an open port the year round, and by a moderate use of an ice breaker continuous intercourse by sea is maintained the winter through by vessels running to Germany, England and the United States. In fact, Libau is the home port for the Russian volunteer fleet, whose ships enter New York.

Originally Libau offered poor inducements for either a naval base or a commercial port, the town lying upon a stretch of low sandy coast directly exposed to the sweep of the Baltic gales, while the water off shore deepened so gradually that its shallowness induced a very nasty sort of sea. However, it was a matter of necessity and money was not allowed to count.

Accordingly, the Russian authorities adopted heroic measures and set about the building of an artificial harbor. With characteristic extravagance the work was started and carried through in the face of many difficulties.

Two Spacious Harbors. Today Libau boasts two harbors, one military, the other commercial, and both lie behind a great breakwater more than four miles long, pierced by two narrow and heavily guarded entrances. Once inside of that shelter a very large fleet can anchor securely no matter how hard it may blow in the Baltic without. It was there that Admiral Rozhdestvensky assembled his ships before setting



out for the far East and the fateful battle of Tsushima.

Breakwaters are commonly built of big masses of piled rock capped with a topping of cut stone. But ordinary practice was out of the question at Libau, and the engineers were soon face to face with a serious difficulty. Rocks were scarce in that sandy region, and even small stones could be gathered only by dint of a good deal of searching.

To overcome the dearth of desirable material of nature's making and to avoid the impracticable alternative of bringing rock overland by very inadequate rail facilities, it was decided to fashion monster blocks of concrete weighing 30 tons apiece, out of the readily available sand. In this way millions of dollars were spent in the producing of artificial stone, and these enormous units were dumped upon the bed of the Baltic until they reached above the water's surface. The general appearance of this breakwater is suggestive of the careless work of a crowd of young Titans, but the great playblocks serve their purpose well and are manifestly durable.

With this sea wall done the next problem was to construct a navy yard back from the coastline and fairly well hidden from the sight of a foe advancing from the sea. Here, too, the Russian engineers boldly faced the existing handicaps.

By cutting a broad and deep channel through a neck of land that intervened between the Baltic and a good sized lake a mile or more inland the

Saving Workers' Eyes.

Recently, owing to its being practically impossible to keep glasses at emery wheels, as they were either broken or carried away, each employee of the International Harvester company, who has at any time occasion to do grinding or chipping, has been provided with a pair of glasses with the understanding that the company will keep them in good repair, but that they are to be returned when the man leaves the service, or the cost will be deducted from the operator's pay. By this arrangement no man has any excuse for not wearing glasses to protect his eyes.

Twilight of Mr. Kipling.

Poor Mr. Rudyard Kipling has for many years now been unable to talk politics without abandoning good manners and common sense in quite a singular degree. The tendency has become a sort of disease with him; and therefore, speeches such as that which he delivered last Saturday at Tunbridge Wells cannot surprise us, or make us indignant, as they would do

if delivered by a responsible person. We remember that in the far away days when he was a great creative writer he produced works of genius for which we were all grateful; and the splendor of their precocious dawn has not been canceled, though its promise has never been fulfilled. But genius is too wayward a thing for promise or prophecy, and the man of genius has burdens laid on him which others can but dimly divine.—London Chronicle.

End of the Phonograph.

Mr. Arthur T. Cowper took a charming young woman of his acquaintance boating on Shaker lake Sunday.

They set a phonograph going at one end of the boat and sat listening to its music as they drifted in the gloaming.

Mr. Cowper thinks now that he should have tied the phonograph down.

"I caught a crab turning the boat around and knocked the phonograph off into six feet of water," reports the romantic Mr. Cowper.—Exchange.